

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5451

As Reported by House Committee On:
Technology, Energy & Communications

Title: An act relating to changing the date for setting the amount of pipeline safety fees.

Brief Description: Changing the date for setting the amount of pipeline safety fees.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Environment, Water & Energy (originally sponsored by Senators Oemig, Ranker, Rockefeller, Honeyford and Fraser; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Technology, Energy & Communications: 3/16/09, 3/19/09 [DP].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Permits the Utilities and Transportation Commission to set the pipeline safety fees amount each year on a date established by administrative rule.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives McCoy, Chair; Eddy, Vice Chair; Crouse, Ranking Minority Member; Carlyle, Condotta, Finn, Hasegawa, Herrera, Hudgins, Jacks, McCune, Morris, Takko and Van De Wege.

Staff: Scott Richards (786-7156)

Background:

The Washington Pipeline Safety Program, administered by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), is funded by federal grants and fees charged to pipeline companies. The size of the federal grant determines how much companies are charged.

Current law requires the UTC to bill companies for fees before July 1 of each year. Since the agency does not receive information regarding federal grant funding until later in the

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summer, this billing is an estimate. The UTC sends final invoices to companies in September, after it receives pertinent grant funding information.

Summary of Bill:

The requirement for the UTC to set pipeline safety fees before July 1 each year is revised to provide that the UTC must set pipeline safety fees before a date it establishes by administrative rule. A reference to a previously repealed section is deleted.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will save us money and improve efficiency at the Utilities and Transportation Commission. This is a good government bill.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Oemig, prime sponsor; and Dave Danner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.